

REMARKS

In response to the office action dated July 11, 2007, Applicants amended claims 38, 41, and 46. Claims 1-37 and 51-68 were previously canceled. Claims 38, 41, and 46 are independent claims. Claims 38-50 and 69-74 are presented for examination.

Applicants thank the Examiner for the interview held on October 12, 2007, during which the current amendments were discussed.

Claim Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. §103

Claims 38-50 and 69-74 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being obvious over U.S. Patent Publication US 2002/0023322 A1 to Murasaki ("Murasaki") in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,212,853 to Kaneko ("Kaneko").

Regarding claims 38, 41, and 46, in general, the Examiner notes that Murasaki fails to disclose that the engageable elements are wedge-shaped and that the upper edge of each engageable element defines a curve in top view, but states that Kaneko discloses such features.

Applicants amended claims 38, 41, and 46 to recite that *the engageable side intersects an upper surface of the base and the non-engageable side extends from the base to the upper edge of the element*. Kaneko discloses mushroom type fastener elements that define a substantially circular profile in top view, rather than a wedge-shaped fastener defining a curve in top view. The engageable surface of Kaneko's mushroom type fastener intersects a stem portion of the fastener, rather than an upper surface of the base. Furthermore, the non-engageable surface is the domed top surface of Kaneko's mushroom type fastener, which fails to extend from the base to the upper edge of the element. Instead, the non-engageable surface of Kaneko's fastener terminates at an edge common with its engageable surface.

Murasaki and Kaneko fail to disclose, suggest, or provide any likelihood of success of an array of wedge-shaped, engageable elements extending integrally from at least one side of a sheet-form base, where the engageable elements each have an engageable side and a non-engageable side conterminous at an upper edge of the element, where the upper edge of each engageable element defines a curve in top view, and where the engageable side intersects an

upper surface of the base and the non-engageable side extends from the base to the upper edge of the element.

Claims 39-40, 42-45, 47-50, and 69-74 are each patentable over Murasaki and Kaneko for at least the reason of depending from a patentable base claim.

For at least the reasons explained above, Applicants respectfully submit that all claims are patentable over Murasaki and Kaneko, and respectfully request reconsideration of all the claims presented for examination and a Notice of Allowance.

CONCLUSION

The attorney of record below invites the Examiner to call with any questions regarding this matter, so that we can continue to advance the prosecution of this matter.

It is believed that all of the pending claims have been addressed. However, the absence of a reply to a specific rejection, issue or comment does not signify agreement with or concession of that rejection, issue or comment. In addition, because the arguments made above may not be exhaustive, there may be reason for patentability of any or all pending claims (or other claims) that have not been expressed. Finally, nothing in this paper should be construed as an intent to concede any issue with regard to any claim, except as specifically stated in this paper, and the amendment of any claim does not necessarily signify concession of unpatentability of the claim prior to amendment.

All fees due are being paid concurrently herewith on the Electronic Filing System (EFS) by way of Deposit Account authorization. Please apply all charges or credits to Deposit Account No. 06-1050, referencing Attorney Docket No. 05918-324001.

Applicant : Christopher M. Gallant et al.
Serial No. : 10/785,133
Filed : February 24, 2004
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Attorney's Docket No.: 05918-324001 / VGCP No.
7020

Respectfully submitted,

Date: November 9, 2007

/Brett A. Krueger/

Brett A. Krueger
Reg. No. 54,243

Fish & Richardson P.C.
225 Franklin Street
Boston, MA 02110
Telephone: (617) 542-5070
Facsimile: (617) 542-8906